

Have I lost my voice? Or, have I ever had it?

“If what being Catholic means to you is just going to Sunday Mass and not eating meat on Fridays during Lent, you can stop reading right now.”

This sentence certainly caught my attention! Naturally, it made me want to read on further, regardless of whether this was my idea of being Catholic or not. Such a stark sentence did bring an array of questions flooding into my mind.

*Is it possible to adhere to such a minimalist’s perspective and be Catholic?
Are there people who really fit into this category? Wow! What a thought!*

The sentence was the opening greeting in a letter I received from the *National Catholic Reporter (NCR)* inviting me to renew my subscription for the next year or two. While the opening greeting stymied me, that is just what it was supposed to do – so, it was successful!

The letter continued: “But if you think being Catholic has something to do with the decisions you make on a daily basis and the influence you have on those around you, you probably want to continue reading. And if you believe being Catholic means leading the way in building a more just society by bringing Catholic values to bear in important discussions on the issues, you definitely want to keep reading.

“The *National Catholic Reporter (NCR)* is an essential tool for Catholics who care about the Church and believe that all voices, including their own, are essential to the Church’s well-being.”

Wow! That is a powerful statement! I have been trying to say as much in the past five years – ***Your voice is important in the Church, at least here in St. Paul Catholic Church!*** Remember, five years ago I asked you to write me and answer this question, “How are we going to be Church here at St. Paul?” I still have a folder full of your thoughts and perspectives, which I check on every now and then to see if we have worked on implementing your recommendations.

We have done a good job of implementing all you have given us, so far. But, there is so much more to do --- to say --- to implement --- to practice --- to put into place --- to move beyond being “Catholics who just go to Mass on Sunday and refrain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent!”

What does it really mean to be CATHOLIC?

--Fr. Gerry

**April 2, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Lent**



To Live as the Body Of Christ

Mass Intentions

Week of April 3—April 9, 2017

7:30 am Mon.: People of the Parish
7:30 am Tues.: People of the Parish
6:00 pm: Wed. Eppie & Bitsy Jaramillo— special int.
7:30 am Thurs.: Margaret Tanner (RIP)
**10:00 am Fri.: Healing Mass
5:30 pm Sat.: Marian Beall— special int.
8:00 am Sun.: Sisters in Faith— special int.
10:30 am Sun.: Sharon Butcher (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

Prayer Intentions

Mike Kuriger
Gloria Jean Garland, niece of Alice Mitchell

Repose of the Soul

Lorraine Stahl, mother of Nanci Kuntz
Mike Thomas, friend of Doug Falcon
Joan Tilley, aunt of Steve Walton

Adoration This Week: Monday—Friday 8 am- 12 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

New Announcements

* **THIS MONDAY— APRIL 3rd @ 6pm— Parish Reconciliation Service.** We will have several priests from the surrounding area to hear confessions.

***Friday, April 7th— Healing Mass @ 10am** followed by our Senior Adult Brunch in the Family Life Center.

***Friday, April 7th- Live Stations of the Cross performed by our Confirmation Class-** 6pm. Join us in the FLC following Stations of the Cross for our Lenten fish fry provided by the Knights of Columbus.

***St. Dominic's Ministry** will be providing lunch items for the families of patients in ICU on **Tuesday, April 18th.** Sign up sheets are in the back of church. Please have all lunch items to the Family Life Center before 10 am.

***Good Friday Stations CD**— It has been a tradition for Fr. Gerry to use the CD titled *Doing It Their Own Way* by Aaron Neville & Fr. Jeffery Bayhi on Good Friday—This is a Contemporary Meditation on The Way of the Cross. We have copies in the church office for anyone who would like to purchase one. They are \$20.

***Nursery and Children's Liturgy** available at the 10:30am mass. **The Nursery** is located in the Early Learning Center (enter through the cafeteria before mass). **Children ages 2-5** will be called up during the mass for **Children's Liturgy.**
*****No Nursery and Children's Liturgy on Easter Sunday*****

***Baptism prep classes** are required for all those needing a child baptized. Please call the church office in advance so you can find out about the next class!

***SAVE THE DATE— Mom's Day 5K to benefit Birthright of Jackson.** May 6th @ Flowood Nature Park
Register @ www.birthright.org/jackson

***Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop-** St. Columb's Episcopal Church--Ridgeland, MS
Saturday April 8, 2017 9:00am-3:00pm— (bring your own lunch—drinks are provided) Cost: any offering
Centering prayer is a method that assists the prayer in learning the art of being in God's presence without using images or words. The practice does not preclude other forms of prayer; rather this practice enhances all of one's prayer. The prayer focuses on the Spirit of God who dwells in the center of the soul and therefore the praying person is enlivened with the mind, heart, and energy of the God within.

* **40 Days for Life— March 1— April 9, 2017**— Please join in prayer and fasting. Located on the corner of N. State & Fondren Pl. Members of St. Paul will be there on Thursdays from 1-2 pm. Please come anytime from 7 am— 5 pm.

Reminders

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY WEEK: *The church office will close at noon on Wed, April 12th.*

No religious education on Wed, April 12th or Sunday, April 16th.

- April 30th — *Holy First Communion Mass @ 2pm*
- May 3rd — *Confirmation Mass @ 6pm*

Weekly offering for March 26, 2017- \$20, 563

Thank You!

Holy Week Schedule of Services



Palm Sunday — April 9th



Chrism Mass — Tuesday , April 11th @ 5:45pm at St. Peter Cathedral



Holy Thursday — Commemoration of the Lord's Supper Mass @ 7:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 pm – midnight

We ask families to sit one hour in Adoration, by last name following this schedule:

8:00-9:00 pm (L-P) 9:00-10:00 pm (Q-Z) 10:00-11:00 pm (A-E) 11:00 pm-midnight (F-K)



Good Friday — Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death

Stations of the Cross @ 12 noon The Passion Service @ 7:00 pm



Holy Saturday, The Great Easter Vigil – Mass begins @ 7:30 pm



Easter Sunday – Masses @ 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 Mass



Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday 8am - 12pm
www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com (601) 992-9547

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